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Dear General DeGaulle

4-13-88

I have asked Mr. Dean Acheson to come to Paris to convey to you the text of a public statement which I intend to make this evening at 1900 hours Washington time. We now have unquestionable evidence, which Mr. Acheson will fully explain to you, that the Soviets, in spite of my warnings last month and of their subsequent assurances, have installed offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba. This constitutes a direct threat to the peace and to the security of this hemisphere and of the entire free world.

Accordingly, I have decided to call for certain measures of quarantine as set forth in my speech. The object of this immediate step is to prevent the Soviet Union from introducing additional missiles into Cuba, and to lead to the elimination of the missiles that are already in

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already in place. One thing is certain: these missiles have got to be withdrawn, and I am making this clear in my speech. In a letter which I am sending to Chairman Khrushchev, I am expressing my hope that we can resume the path of peaceful negotiation.

I am also requesting an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council. I have asked Ambassador Stevenson to present on behalf of the United States a resolution calling for the withdrawal of missile bases and other offensive weapons in Cuba under the supervision of United Nations observers. This would make it possible for the United States to lift its quarantine. I hope that you will instruct your representative in New York to work actively with us and speak forthrightly in support of the above program in the United Nations.

I need not point out to you the possible relation which this secret and dangerous Soviet move may have to the situation in Berlin. We in the West must be prepared for a real test of our determination.

It is of the utmost importance that we should all keep in very close touch with each other during the critical times which confront us. I will do my best to keep you fully informed of my thinking, and in turn I will welcome any observations you may care to make.

John F. Kennedy

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